

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03 H-01 MCT-01 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 CA-01 JUSE-00
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P R 241503Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254771

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, PINS, ICAO

SUBJECT: UN RESPONSE TO HIJACKING PROBLEM

REF: A) USUN 3946; B) USUN 3967; C) USUN 3988

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1. AS POSTS WILL SEE FROM REFTELS WHICH ARE BEING
REPEATED TO YOU, OUR EFFORTS TO ENLIST CO-SPONSORS
FOR INSCRIPTION OF NEW AGENDA ITEM ON "SAFETY OF
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION" HAVE BEEN NOTABLY
UNSUCCESSFUL WITH ARAB AND AFRICAN DELEGATIONS. WE
UNDERSTAND SENSITIVITY OF THIS SUBJECT FOR ARABS
AND CURRENT PREOCCUPATION OF AFRICAN DELEGATIONS

WITH SOUTH AFRICA SITUATION. NONETHELESS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS ISSUE NOT APPEAR TO BE CAST IN TERMS WHICH INVOLVE OPPOSING REGIONAL INTERESTS. AIR SAFETY AND HIJACKING ARE MATTERS POTENTIALLY AFFECTING ALL NATIONS, AND WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT LIST OF CO-SPONSORS OF AGENDA ITEM REFLECT THIS REALITY.

2. YOU SHOULD CONTACT FOREIGN MINISTRY AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- AUSTRIA HAS REQUESTED INSCRIPTION OF AN ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENTITLED "SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION."

- THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THIS IS AN URGENT AND IMPORTANT MATTER DESERVING SERIOUS ATTENTION AT THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. THE RECENT LUFTHANSA HIJACKING AND THE MURDER OF THE PILOT HAS DRAMATICALLY UNDERSCORED THE URGENCY OF THIS ISSUE.

- WE UNDERSTAND CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS (REFTEL A). WE BELIEVE THIS IS A REASONABLE AND MODERATE APPROACH AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ONE WE WOULD HOPE YOUR GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS A PARTY TO THE TOKYO, HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS, WOULD SUPPORT.

- THE UNITED STATES HAS DECIDED TO CO-SPONSOR INSCRIPTION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM.

- AUSTRIA HAS ASSEMBLED AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF CO-SPONSORS, BUT SO FAR THERE IS A NOTABLE ABSENCE OF CO-SPONSORS FROM AMONG ARAB AND AFRICAN NATIONS.

- WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT NIGERIA HAS DECIDED TO CO-SPONSOR BECAUSE THIS HELPS TO IMPROVE THE GEOGRAPHIC BALANCE OF THE LIST OF CO-SPONSORS.

- IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS MATTER NOT BE VIEWED AS PITTING CERTAIN REGIONS AGAINST OTHERS. HIJACKING AND AIR SAFETY IS A MATTER OF DIRECT CONCERN TO ALL NATIONS, BUT PRESENT LACK OF GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE AMONG CO-SPONSORS COULD BE MISINTERPRETED.

- INSCRIPTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S GENERAL COMMITTEE APPEARS ALMOST CERTAIN. ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS WILL HAVE TAKEN PLACE BY THE TIME THIS DEMARCHE HAS BEEN MADE, WE WOULD URGE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT INSTRUCT ITS UN DELEGATION TO ADD YOUR NATION TO LIST OF CO-SPONSORS OF THIS ITEM.

3. FOR MOSCOW: WE HAVE ASKED FOR SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THIS ITEM IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, MAKING THE POINT THAT IT WOULD LOOK ODD IF NO COMMUNIST COUNTRY REFLECTED ITS CONCERN ABOUT THEIR AIR SAFETY BY CO-SPONSORING AND SUPPORTING THIS ITEM.
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WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIETS ARE PLANNING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW ON HIJACKING ON MONDAY, HIGHLIGHTING BRAZINSKAS CASE. SHOULD MFA RAISE BRAZINSKAS MATTER AS A COUNTER TO OUR REQUEST FOR THEIR SUPPORT, YOU SHOULD REITERATE STANDARD ARGUMENT THAT USG IS SEEKING DEPORTATION OF BRAZINSKAS BUT IS UNWILLING TO EXTRADITE THEM TO THE SOVIET UNION (MOSCOW IS A SIGNATORY OF THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTION BUT NOT THE TOKYO CONVENTION).

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